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Issue 16

# Castle Baynard Resident

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## WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

As reported in Issue 15, the City has now agreed to implement the least damaging of the proposed boundary changes to Castle Baynard Ward, moving only one block, 1 and 4 St Paul's Churchyard. We are delighted that the historic parts of the Ward have been retained within it. This was a direct response to the many representations received by the City.

For more information on the rich history of the Ward visit the Ward Club website: [www.cbwc.org.uk](http://www.cbwc.org.uk)

## LAP DANCING – CITY SET TO ADOPT STRONGER POWERS

Following the passing of the Licensing Act 2003, it became possible for pubs and other licensed premises to provide lap dancing and similar activities without the need to be licensed as a sex establishment. This has led to a huge increase in the number of such establishments around the country, including as we have reported in previous issues the premises in Castle Baynard which operated only for a short time in 2008. Following a campaign in Parliament and elsewhere, legislation has now been passed which would give local authorities greater powers to regulate lap dancing establishments. Sex establishments are regulated under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The Policing and Crime Act 2009 has amended a schedule to the 1982 Act to broaden the definition of sex establishments to include sexual entertainment venues, eg lap dancing, pole dancing and strip shows. Previously they were outside this legislation and treated in the same way as cafes. Local authorities can now decide whether or not to adopt the revised schedule. Should a local authority decide to adopt the revised schedule, when considering an application for a sexual entertainment venue they would have at their disposal the powers of the 1982 Act. In addition, an authority may set a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues in its area.

The Licensing Committee met on 14 June 2010 and recommended that the Court of Common Council adopt the revised schedule of the 1982 Act. The Court of Common Council will now meet on 15 July and are expected to ratify the recommendations of the Licensing Committee, with the provisions coming into force on 1 September 2010

The Licensing Committee decided not to recommend the setting of a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues. Were the City to set a limit of "nil", this would not in fact prevent the establishment of lap dancing venues. On setting a limit, the City would need to give a rationale for its decision, as the decision can be challenged at judicial review. Irrespective of whether a limit has been set, an application for a sexual entertainment venue could still be submitted and would need to be considered on its merits. The 1982 Act, unlike the Licensing Act, permits the local authority to consider whether a sexual entertainment venue is appropriate given the character of a locality, for example whether it is near residential accommodation, a school or a church.

The 1982 Act imposes a stronger regime than the Licensing Act 2003. Apart from considering the character of the locality, the City as a whole is considered a single locality. This means that any resident of the City can make representations about an application for a lap dancing venue, not just those in their immediate vicinity. It should be noted that were a license to be granted, it is required to be renewed on an annual basis. This would give local people an opportunity to raise objections on a regular basis, rather than having to go through the rather demanding Review process in the Licensing Act 2003.

Later this year, the City will also be undertaking a public consultation on its Statement of Licensing Policy. This is the general policy document that sets out how the City approaches its responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003. It is subject to review every three years, a review that involves wide scale consultation. The Licensing Committee have agreed that as part of this consultation exercise, views will also be sought concerning sexual entertainment venues.

If you want to express a view on lapdancing clubs and the City, or find out more about the licensing policy review, please contact [licensing@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@cityoflondon.gov.uk).

## YOUTH THEATRE PROJECTS AT ST BRIDE FOUNDATION

The St Bride Foundation Youth Theatre Projects bring drama theory and practice to life and contribute to a wider understanding of the arts whilst at the same time empowering young people to critically examine the world around them. Each project works with a given theme that is researched and participants use music, dance and drama to devise their own piece of theatre. The participants have the opportunity to work with professional theatre practitioners on devising, script writing, song writing, choreography, directing, costume design and although the practitioners are there to guide and help shape the piece it is up to the participants to devise the pieces themselves.

*Cont.*

Back in February 17 young people from six schools across London took part in a five day theatre devising course at the St Bride Foundation. The participants, all in Year 10, were chosen by their drama teachers to participate because of their enthusiasm and dedication to the performing arts and they worked together to create a thirty minute piece of theatre inspired by the theme of *'Identity'*. Working in groups and individually, they created scenes, monologues, dances and songs highlighting their opinions and beliefs about their own identities and what others perceive. Many of the monologues echoed a similar refrain, 'I am unique, I am different, I am human'. The final performance took place in Bridewell Hall at the St Bride Foundation where they performed to an audience of invited friends, family and teachers.

Feedback from the project highlighted that participants felt the experience was of great value. When asked what they thought they gained from the experience one participant replied, 'I learnt about how people interpret things differently, I got new ideas from the other participants and I believe I gained more confidence, in performing and when working with new people.' Another commented 'I just want to say that this was the best experience of my life....so far!' Parents and guardians were asked what impact (if any) the project had for their child. Responses acknowledged a boost in self-confidence and independence.

St Bride Foundation Youth Theatre Projects run throughout the year during half term and summer holidays. Interested young people aged 13-19 are encouraged to contact Kristina Nilles at [kristinanilles@stbridefoundation.org](mailto:kristinanilles@stbridefoundation.org) for more information.



Participants in *"Identity"* – February 2010

*Photo: Kristina Nilles*

#### **WEST AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

The next West Area Community Partnership Meeting will be held at **5.30 pm on Tuesday 20 July in the Henry VIII committee room at St Bartholomew's Hospital**. Enter via the Henry VIII gate at the junction of Giltspur Street and West Smithfield and you will be directed.

These meetings are an opportunity for local people to meet their local ward policing team and to discuss priorities for their local area. The west area covers Castle Baynard and the two Farringdon Wards. Crime figures and trends are provided at the meeting and matters of concern can be raised. The meeting lasts about an hour, and everyone is welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend, but would like to raise an issue, please let us know.

#### **PRE-PLANNING NOTIFICATION OF REPLACEMENT OF TWO MOBILE ANTENNAE**

In Issue 12 we reported that we had been informed of a proposal from O2 to replace two mobile antenna on the roof of 167 Fleet Street with two new antenna. Although planning permission was granted, the proposal was not implemented. Notification of a new proposal has just been received. This is very similar to the previous proposal and is for two T-Mobile antenna to be replaced by two antenna, to be shared by O2 and Vodaphone. The position of the antenna would again be on the north east corner of the roof of the building. Mobile companies are now endeavouring to consolidate (ie share) antenna, not only does this reduce their costs, but should reduce the overall the number of antenna. Residents with questions may find the following link helpful:  
<http://www.mobilemastinfo.com/index.html>

#### **MAX'S WALK**

Walk part of the Jubilee Walkway in London on Monday 12 July 2010 to commemorate Max Nicholson, the ornithologist and conservationist who thought of it. Walk starts at 10.00 am by the Walkway plaque in Trafalgar Square (40 paces straight ahead from the foot of the National Gallery Portico steps). Max's son Piers is a resident in the Ward. For more details, see [www.maxnicholson.com](http://www.maxnicholson.com)